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TO : WASHINGTON HONOLULU

FROM: SAIGON 0966, 17 SEPTEMBER 1963

| 1. AFTER MAKING AND BREAKING FOUR APPOINTMENTS WITH CAS         |
|---|
| OFFICER, SENT MESSAGE ON 5 SEPT VIA                             |
| THAT HE CONSIDERED IT BEST IN PRESENT CLIMATE THAT CAS          |
| OFFICER NOT COME TO OWING HEAVY SURVEILLANCE.                   |
| TRANSPARENCY THIS EXCUSE INDICATED BY ASSURANCES THAT           |
| THOUGHT IT PERFECTLY IN ORDER TO CONTINUE VISIT HIS             |
| NOT MORE THAN FIFTY   |
| FEET FROM MAIN GATE. ONE SURVEILLANCE WOULD COVER BOTH.         |
| 2. IN HOUR CONVERSATION AND CAS OFFICER WENT OVER               |
| VARIOUS SUBJECTS, FIRST BEING ARTICLE ON CAS IN VIETNAM TIMES,  |
| AND CAS OFFICER ASKED TO GIVE FULL ACCOUNT OF CON-              |
| VERSATION. CAS OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT LIKE MOST EXPOSES THIS  |
| WAS MISHMASH OF FACT AND FANCY, THAT TO EXTENT IT WAS ACCURATE  |
| THE WRITER DISCUSSED WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY                 |
| U.S. AND GVN, IN MOST CASED BY IT WOULD                         |
| THEREFORE BE HEIGHT OF ILLOGIC FOR U.S. TO SPEND LARGE SUMS AND |
| EFFORTS ON BEHALF GOVERNMENT WHICH WE SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTEMPTING |
| OVERTHROW. CAS OFFICER TOLD TO TELL THAT IN SUCH                |
| CIRCUMSTANCES CAS HAD NO CHOICE BUT REVIEW ALL PROJECTS.        |
| 3. BROUGHT VARIOUS MESSAGES ON WHICH ASKED FOR                  |
| CAS OFFICER'S OPINION. FIRST WAS QUERY WHETHER CAS OFFICER      |
| AGREED WITH THAT PRES KENNEDY ERRED IN STATING GVN OUT          |
| OF TOUCH WITH PEOPLE AND ALSO THAT BUDDHISTS BEING REPRESSED.   |
| CAS OFFICER SAID HE DISAGREED ON BOTH COUNTS AND CONCURREI      |

| COMPLETELY WITH PRES KENNEDY, CITING IN BOTH CASES EARLIER AND  |
|---|
| FAIRLY DETAILED CONVERSATIONS WITH WHO HAD SPOKEN STRONGLY      |
| AGAINST GVN FOR HANDLING OF BUDDHISTS AND ALSO DENOUNCED DIEM   |
| AND NHU BY NAME FOR MOUTHING THEORIES WHICH WERE MEANINGLESS TO |
| POPULATION, WHO HAD LOST 150,000 KILLED IN PAST TEN             |
| YEARS. IT DISAPPOINTING TO SEE SUCH CRAVEN,                     |
| CHANGE OF HEART ON PART OF SENIOR AND INTELLIGENT OFFICER, AND  |
| NOT SURPRISING HE EMBARRASSED DELIVER SUCH OPINIONS PERSONALLY. |
| STATION HAS HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH OFFICER SINCE           |
| 5 SEPTEMBER.  |
| 4. APART FROM FOREGOING, STATION IS TAKING GOOD LOOK AT         |
| FOR ANOTHER REASON, NAMELY POSSIBLE                             |
|   |
| HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED TO STATION PER OUR                          |
| SPECIFICATIONS, BUT THEY COULD OBVIOUSLY BE MEANINGLESS SINCE   |
| CANNOT BE CHECKED. REQUEST HQS                                  |
| RESERVE JUDGMENT UNTIL STATION HAVE HAD CHANCE TO PIN           |
| DOWN. NEXT STEPS INCLUDE CONSULTATION (NOTE: THIS               |
| HANDLED WITH WHO HAS FULL CAS CLEARANCE),                       |
| FOLLOWED BY JOINT MEETING WITH AND REQUEST FOR                  |
| EXPLANATIONS WHERE NECESSARY. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER             |
| CAN BE PROVED, STATION HAVE TENTATIVELY AND INFORMALLY          |
| CONCLUDED THAT BEST GENERAL GROUND RULES WILL BE FOR            |

| SUPPORT  |
|--|
| ALTHOUGH THIS SOLUTION MAY BE TOO PAT BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE        |
| THIS PROBLEM HAS NOT ARISEN YET. EFFECT OF THIS TYPE ARRANGEMENT |
| WILL BE FOR STATION TO CONCENTRATE ON STATION                    |

WILL ADVISE SOONEST, PROBABLY WITHIN WEEK.

END OF MESSAGE